

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WELLES DECLARATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th anniversary of the Welles Declaration.

Issued on July 23, 1940, by United States Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles, this declaration condemned the Soviet Union's aggression against, and annexation of, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

This strong statement was the first announcement of the historic policy of non-recognition that was pivotal to empowering the resistance by democratic movements behind the Iron Curtain.

Until the restoration of their independence, the United States maintained strong support for the freedom of these Baltic States and their people.

Mr. Speaker, at this particular moment in history, I believe this anniversary holds even more significance.

History has a way of repeating itself. Mr. Speaker, and as we see aggressive military campaigns seeking to illegally gain dominance over nations' sovereign territory, we must have the same courage of our predecessors to stand against tyranny and support those who yearn for democracy, freedom, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to remember the role our nation had 75 years ago supporting Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in their aspirations for freedom, and commend those nations today for their commitment to democratic governance, their contributions to NATO, and the critical role they each play in promoting democratic ideals worldwide.

HONORING BILL TOWNSEND

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill Townsend, who will be ninety-nine years old on August 13, 2015, for his many years of service to Mendocino County.

Since 1947, Mr. Townsend has dedicated his time, talent, and energy to the health of our forests and rivers, and to the youth of Mendocino County. A lifelong sportsman, Mr. Townsend has demonstrated an enduring commitment to preserving our natural resources for future generations. For sixty years, he has volunteered his time, beginning with his work at the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in 1955. His contributions have included everything from fish ladders, Pike Minnow Derbies, stream restoration projects, and 43 years of

grilling fish at the "World's Largest Salmon Barbeque" in Fort Bragg, California, which raises funds for fisheries.

With his dedication to fish habitat restoration, it was fitting that in 1973 the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors appointed Bill to the Mendocino County Fish and Game Commission where he served as chairman for 15 years until he retired in 1988. Throughout his tenure on the commission, Mr. Townsend worked tirelessly to support healthy fisheries and integrate youth education into the Commission's projects.

Mr. Townsend served as president of Salmon Unlimited for three years starting in 1991, where he played an instrumental role in the development of the hatchery on Rowdy Creek on the Smith River. Included in his legacy of accomplishments is his work to secure the fish hatchery at Coyote Dam, which was completed in 1996 and renamed the "Bill Townsend Fish Hatchery" in 2004. He also served his community on the Russian River Flood Control Board for five years from 2005–2010, "retiring" at the age of 97.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting to honor and thank Bill Townsend for his many years of dedicated service. I am privileged to express deep appreciation to Mr. Townsend for his profound impacts on our rivers and convey to him my best wishes on his ninety-ninth birthday.

TRIBUTE FOR CONNIE NEAL

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a leader in the fight against drug abuse in Kentucky, Ms. Connie Neal, upon her upcoming retirement from the Administration Office of the Courts, as the Drug Court General Manager for Kentucky.

Connie Neal received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Morehead State University in 1985 and a Master's Degree from the University of Kentucky in 1992. She has more than 22 years of experience in the field, ranging from working with court committed juvenile offenders, to the dually diagnosed mentally ill, to Child Protective Services, to Drug Courts. Since the inception of the Kentucky Drug Court Department in 1996, Connie has dedicated her career to this life-changing program, working her way up through the ranks and taking the helm as General Manager in 2012. Thanks in large part to her leadership, more than 7,000 participants have successfully completed the program, more than 1,000 babies have been born drug free, \$5.3 million in child support has been collected, and \$5.7 million court obligations have been paid. Today, Kentucky has more than 54 Adult Drug Courts, 5 Veteran Treatment Courts, one Mental Health Court, as well as one DUI Court. It is her sheer courage and conviction to provide individuals with a second chance in their dark-

est hour that has driven her efforts to expand services in the Commonwealth.

In addition to her tireless efforts for Kentucky Drug Courts, Connie has conducted workshops for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the Kentucky School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation and Community Corrections and countless other partners and stakeholders impacted by the national drug abuse epidemic.

Connie's passion and drive to help addicts achieve long-term recovery has been instrumental to the growth and success of Drug Courts across the Commonwealth. In fact, she has developed an expertise in training judges, teams and staff in nearly every county, helping each leader confront the daily challenges of Drug Court with tremendous grace.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible impact that Connie Neal has made in the efficiency and effectiveness of Drug Courts in Kentucky, evidenced by the thousands of individuals who have been reunited with loved ones and are now living as productive, drug-free citizens of the Commonwealth. May her years of retirement be richly blessed.

CELEBRATING SHAPIRO & COMPANY'S 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 23, 2015

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel Shapiro & Company, Inc., a Customs brokerage and freight forwarding firm in Baltimore, on 100 years of service to the international trade community.

In 1915, Samuel Shapiro, a newly licensed Customs House broker, opened a one-room office at 29 S Gay Street with a \$5 roll top desk and two employees. He built his company on a foundation of integrity, respect and the ability to create change. During World War I, Samuel's young firm managed the U.S. government's grain exports to war-torn European countries out of the Port of Baltimore. As business expanded internationally, Shapiro & Co. earned a reputation as the most trustworthy shipping firm in Baltimore. Samuel became an influential leader in the expansion of the Port and advocated for an autonomous Maryland Port Authority. Samuel's son, Sigmund, strengthened the company's relationship with government officials at the local, state and national level, becoming a voice for the industry on regulation.

More than a family business, Shapiro & Co. is a family that cares for its own and its community. Samuel began the tradition of philanthropy early. At the close of his first full year of business, and having made a modest profit of \$50, he gave 20% to the American Jewish Relief Fund. That spirit of generosity has continued with the deep community involvement

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